AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 17 and ending on page 2, line 22:

A1 FIG. 1 shows a cut-away perspective view that illustrates a conventional ~~slopped~~ sloped screen separator 100, while FIG. 2 shows a side view of separator 100. As shown in FIGs. 1-2, separator 100 has a back wall 110, and first and second side walls 112 and 114 that are connected to back wall 110. Side walls 112 and 114, in turn, have openings 116 and 118.

In the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 5 and ending on page 3, line 9:

A2 As further shown in FIGs. 1-2, separator 100 has a front edge 142 that is connected to side walls 112 and 114 and lower panel 122, and a sloped screen 144 that is connected to side walls 112 and 114, ledge 130, and front edge 142. Sloped screen 144 typically has slotted or circular openings 146 of 1.5mm (approximately 0.060 of an inch).

In the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 5 and ending on page 4, line 13:

A3 With separator 100, the slurry falls through screen 144 and is collected by lower panel 122. The slurry then flows out opening 124 where the slurry is gravity fed to a lagoon. The flow of slurry into opening 124 creates a suction. If openings 116 and 118 were absent or closed, the suction would pull air through screen 144. The flow of air through screen 144, however, pulls and holds solids to screen 144, thereby plugging the openings 146. Thus, openings 116 and 118 provide an air intake route that eliminates the suction across screen 144 so that larger solids can fall down the face of screen 144.

In the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 14 and ending on page 4, line 20:

A4 Screen 144 is also subject to plugging from hot summertime conditions. When the available slurry has been pumped through separator 100, solids to varying degrees remain on the

face of screen 144. In hot summertime conditions, the solids quickly dry. When the slurry is again pumped into separator 100, the initial slurry runs down the face of screen 144 and falls off front edge 142 until the moisture in the slurry unplugs the openings 146.

Q4 cont

In the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 16 and ending on page 6, line 24:

The present invention also includes a method of removing solids from a manure slurry. The method includes the step of running the manure slurry over a ~~slopped~~ sloped screen. The ~~slopped~~ sloped screen has a plurality of screen openings that each have a size that ranges from a lower size to an upper size. The lower size is greater than a size that requires shaking before the manure slurry will fall through the screen openings. The upper size is equal to or less than 1mm. The method further includes the step of collecting a screened slurry that falls through the sloped screen in a collection compartment.

Q5

In the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 10 and ending on page 7, line 11:

FIG. 1 is a cut-away perspective view illustrating a conventional ~~slopped~~ sloped-screen separator 100.

Q6

In the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 13 and ending on page 7, line 14:

FIG. 3 is a cut-away perspective view illustrating a ~~slopped~~ sloped -screen separator 300 in accordance with the present invention.

Q7

In the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 11 and ending on page 8, line 17:

FIG. 3 shows a cut-away perspective view that illustrates a ~~slopped~~ sloped -screen separator 300 in accordance with the present invention. FIG. 4 shows a side view of separator 300, while FIG. 5 shows a front view of separator 300. As shown in FIGs. 3-5, separator 300 has

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A 8 cont a back wall 310, and first and second side walls 312 and 314 that are connected to back wall 310. Side walls 312 and 314, in turn, have openings 316 and 318, respectively.

In the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 10 and ending on page 9, line 15:

In accordance with the present invention, ~~slopped~~ sloped screen 344 has openings 346 that range from greater than the size where slurry will not flow through the openings without being shaken, which is approximately 0.15mm (approximately 0.006 of an inch), to less than 1mm (approximately 0.040 of an inch). Thus, the present invention utilizes opening sizes that were previously considered to be unworkable.

A 1

In the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 3 and ending on page 11, line 9:

Baffle ~~440~~ 340 spreads slurry 610 so that slurry 610 flows evenly over the edge of ledge 330 onto sloped screen 344 where slurry 610 is then sprayed by heads 360 and 362. Water line 354 is connected to a water source under pressure, such as in the range of 0.70 kilograms per square centimeter (approximately 10 pounds per square inch) to 5.27 kilograms per square centimeter (approximately 75 pounds per square inch).

A 10

In the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 25 and ending on page 13, line 7:

As shown in FIG. 8, separator 800 differs from separator 300 in that separator 800 does not have air flow controllers 350 and 352. In separator 800, openings 316 and 318 are formed to be large enough to prevent solids from being pulled into screen ~~344~~ 844 as a result of slurry flowing out of opening 324. Separator 800 further differs from separator 300 in that separator 800 has openings 846 ranging from about 0.51mm (approximately 0.020 of an inch), to about 1.78mm (approximately 0.070 of an inch). Experimental results taken with a screen having 0.89mm (approximately 0.035 of an inch) openings indicate that, although not as dramatic as separator 300, separator 800 also removes more solids than does conventional separator 100.

A 11

In the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 13 and ending on page 13, line 21:

As shown in FIG. 9, separator 900 differs from separator 300 in that separator 900 does not have air flow controllers 350 and 352, water line 354, or spray heads 356. Separator 900 further differs from separator 300 in that separator 900 has openings 946 in screen 944 ranging from about 0.51mm (approximately 0.020 of an inch), to less than 1mm (approximately 0.040 of an inch). Experimental results taken from separator 900 using about 0.89mm (approximately 0.035 of an inch) openings indicate that as the percentage of solids in the slurry drops, the size of the openings can be reduced.

A12